

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 11, 2011

Honorable John L. Mica
Chairman
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Honorable Bob Gibbs
Chairman
Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Chairman Mica and Chairman Gibbs,


As you well know, the recent flooding of the Missouri River has adversely affected citizens along the entire river. This flooding once again is causing significant negative economic impacts and costing taxpayers large sums for flood fighting, mitigation and recovery efforts. While the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has worked diligently to mitigate the impact of the current floods, many of our constituents believe that the Corps' management of the Missouri River has shifted from a focus on flood protection to a focus on recreation and endangered species.


In the midst of this recent flooding, the Corps sent letters to landowners along the Missouri River offering to buy land from willing sellers, intending to rebuild wildlife habitats. While the Corps maintains that the timing of the letters was a coincidence and a mistake, some recipients of this letter were understandably concerned that the Corps was seeking to benefit from depressed land prices caused by Corps-managed flooding.

Given your jurisdiction over water resources and development, we believe it is important that you consider holding a hearing on the issues surrounding the Missouri River, including flood control, the success of endangered species mitigation efforts, and the Corps' response to flooding events.

Thank you for your strong support of America's waterways, and your commitment to good oversight. We believe that hearings on this topic are important and timely, and we are eager to work with you to ensure that the Missouri River is given the attention it merits.

Sincerely,


W. Todd Akin
Member of Congress


Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Jo Ann Emerson
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress